



## Pastor's Letter



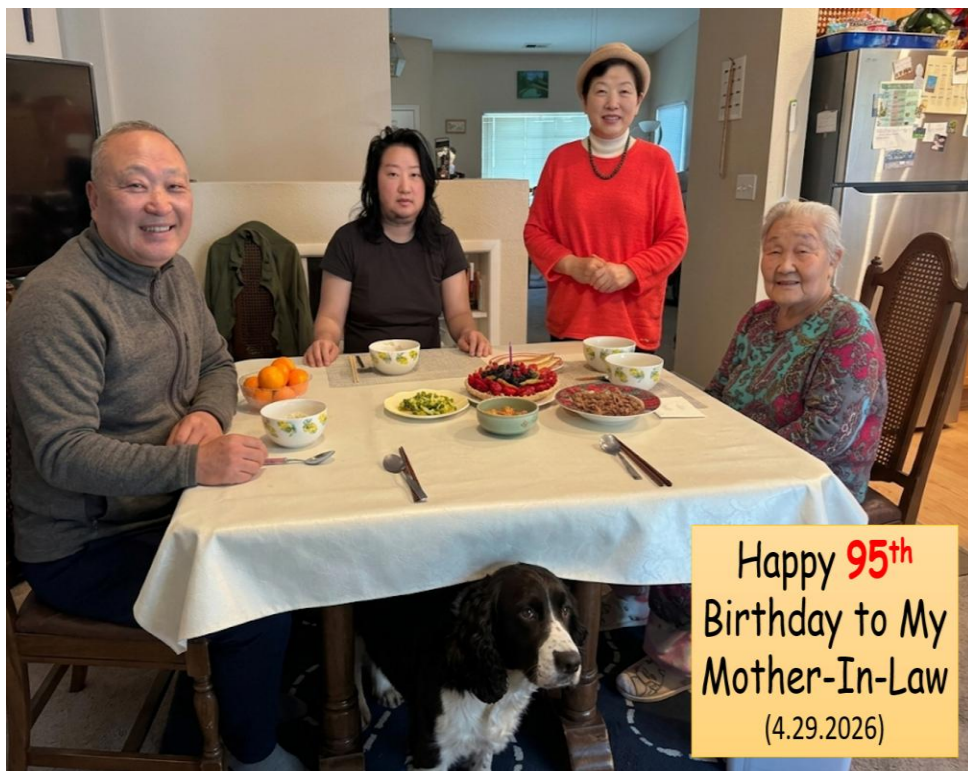
Dear Church Family,

May 2026

In the quiet corners of our sanctuary and the busy aisles of our fellowship hall, I often look around and see a profound history written in the faces of our community. We are a congregation blessed with many who have walked this earth for eight, nine, or even ten decades.

Lately, I have been reflecting on how we perceive one another as the years pass. In a world that often prizes youth, physical strength, and "productivity," it is easy for those whose bodies are growing weaker to feel as though they are becoming smaller or less visible in the community. When a walk becomes a shuffle or a sharp memory begins to fade, a sense of declining self-esteem can often take root.

**But I believe with all my heart that this is not how God sees us.**



Recently, my family and I welcomed my 95-year-old mother-in-law into our home. She is now physically living with us in the parsonage. We just celebrated her 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday this week (see the picture).

Looking at her, I see more than just the frailties that come with age. I see a woman who has survived wars, endured unbelievable hardships, and navigated a lifetime of challenges that many of us can only imagine. Yes, like all of us, her journey has been imperfect—but those imperfections do not define her value. In God's eyes, there is no "expiration date" on our worth. Whether we are young and healthy or old and sick, we are first and foremost **His children**.

The Scriptures remind us that aging is not a retreat from life, but an advancement in honor. Leviticus 19:32 commands us: *"Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God."* This verse suggests that our reverence for God is tied to how we treat the seniors among us.

When we look at our elders, we shouldn't just see "weakness." We should see:

- **Living History:** Shoulders that carried the burdens of past generations so we could stand where we are today.
- **Spiritual Wisdom:** A depth of faith that has been refined in the fire of time.
- **The Image of God:** A soul that is being "renewed day by day," even as the outer self wastes away (2 Corinthians 4:16).

**Continued**

We are called to be a community that lifts one another up. Caring for our seniors with love and respect is not just a kind gesture or a "program" of the church—it is a divine commandment. It is an act of worship.

To those of you who feel the weight of your years: Please know that you are not becoming "smaller." You are the pillars of this house. Your presence is our treasure, and your stories are our maps.

To the rest of our congregation: I challenge you this month to look at our seniors with "God's eyes." Take a moment to listen to a story, offer a hand of support, or simply sit in silence with someone who has traveled a long road. When we honor them, we honor the Father who created them.

As it says in 1 John 4:7: *"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God."* May that love be most visible in how we cherish those who have loved us the longest.

Grace and peace be with you all,

Your Pastor, *Hyesung Lee*